



REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the present application.

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Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jackson et al.* (US 6,052,779) in view of *Angelo et al.* (US 6,418,533). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

Jackson, on its face, is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation—the common assignee of the present application. The issue date of *Jackson* is April 18, 2000, which is after the filing date of the present application. Thus, according to MPEP § 706.02(l)(1), *Jackson* is only qualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) but not available to form the basis for an obviousness rejection under § 103. Because *Angelo* does not teach or suggest the novel features of the claimed invention, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claim 1 along with its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of this application, please charge it against Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

Respectfully submitted,

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